



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/076,528	05/12/98	MEMINIE	LMM1391FRE

STEPHEN G. RUDISILL
ARNOLD WHITE & DURKEE
PO BOX 4433
HOUSTON TX 77210

LM32/0805

EXAMINER

IND. A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2724	

DATE MAILED: 08/05/99

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Notice of Allowability

Application No.
09/076,528

Applicant(s)

Mennie et al.

Examiner

Anh Hong Do

Group Art Unit
2724

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course.

- This communication is responsive to Amendment on 5/12/1999.
- The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-35.
- The drawings filed on May 12, 1998 are acceptable.
- Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
- received.
- received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.
- received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

- Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE to comply with the requirements noted below is set to EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE "DATE MAILED" of this Office action. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

- Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION, PTO-152, which discloses that the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.
- Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS
- because the originally filed drawings were declared by applicant to be informal.
- including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948, attached hereto or to Paper No. _____.
- including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed on _____, which has been approved by the examiner.
- including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the reverse side of the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

- Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any response to this letter should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE/SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

Attachment(s)

- Notice of References Cited, PTO-892
- Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 7 + 9
- Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- Interview Summary, PTO-413
- Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

JOSE L. COUSO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIM:

Claim 30, line 5, delete "and said height dimension" (second occurrence "said height dimension").

3. Claims 1-35 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 13, 14, 18, 27, 30 and 34 are independent claims.

As to claim 1, the prior art, taken either singly or in combination, does not teach:

- the height dimension of the housing being about 4 times the smaller cross-sectional

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dimension of the smallest dimensioned bill to be identified by the device;

- signal processing means for generating an indication of the identity of the bill based on the comparison when the retrieved characteristic information sufficiently matches the master characteristic information associated with at least one genuine bill.

As to claim 13, the prior art, taken either singly or in combination, does not teach:

- the depth dimension of the housing being about 5 times the smaller cross-sectional dimension of the smallest dimensioned bill to be identified by the device;

- the width dimension of the housing being about 2 times the larger cross-sectional dimension of the smallest dimensioned bill to be identified by the device;

- signal processing means for generating an indication of the identity of the bill based on the comparison when the retrieved characteristic information sufficiently matches the master characteristic information associated with at least one genuine bill.

As to claim 14, the prior art, taken either singly or in combination, does not teach:

- the height dimension of the housing being 10 inches;
- signal processing means for generating an indication of the identity of the bill based on the comparison when the retrieved characteristic information sufficiently matches the master characteristic information associated with at least one genuine bill.

As to claim 18, the prior art, taken either singly or in combination, does not teach:

- at least one stacker wheel having one portion extending into the transport path and another portion extending into the output bin, said stacker wheel being located along said

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transport path and spaced apart from the second roller along said transport path by a distance less than the narrow dimension of the bill.

As to claim 27, the prior art, taken either singly or in combination, does not teach:

- a footprint of the device defined by the area obtained by multiplying the depth dimension by the width dimension being about 125 square inches;

- signal processing means for generating an indication of the identity of the bill based on the comparison when the retrieved characteristic information sufficiently matches the master characteristic information associated with at least one genuine bill.

As to claim 30, the prior art, taken either singly or in combination, does not teach:

- the volume of the housing, defined by the product of the depth dimension and the height dimension and the width dimension being about 1,250 cubic inches;

- signal processing means for generating an indication of the identity of the bill based on the comparison when the retrieved characteristic information sufficiently matches the master characteristic information associated with at least one genuine bill.

As to claim 34, the prior art, taken either singly or in combination, does not teach:

- a memory storing master characteristic information associated with at least one genuine bill from each of at least two currency systems;

- signal processing means for generating an indication of the identity of the bill based on the comparison when the retrieved characteristic information sufficiently matches the master characteristic information, wherein the system is relatively compact.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

5. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group Receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anh Hong Do whose telephone number is (703) 308-6720.

July 23, 1999.

Anh Hong Do
ANH HONG DO
PATENT EXAMINER

Jose L. Couso
JOSE L. COUSO
PRIMARY EXAMINER